

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on March 14, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 61, 2/9/2017; HB 297, 3/9/2017
Executive Action: SB 299, Do Pass As Amended; HB 297, Be Concurred In; HB 20, Be Concurred In; HB 22, Be Concurred In; HB 61, Motion Withdrawn

00:00:58 Chair Ankney
00:01:15 Sen. Kary and Sen. Wolken entered the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 61

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:32 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 61, Revise and update 9-1-1 laws.

00:03:37 Sen. McNally entered the hearing.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:53 Geoffrey Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)
00:16:55 Chair Ankney
00:17:13 Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County
00:21:18 Kerry O'Connell, director, Gallatin County 911
00:23:15 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties
00:24:45 Mark Baker, representing AT&T and Charter Communications
00:26:31 E. J. Redding, Triangle Telephone Cooperative
00:27:07 Dave Galt, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
00:27:40 John Bemis, CenturyLink
00:29:52 Gary MacDonald, commissioner, Roosevelt County

Opponents' Testimony:

00:30:56 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)
00:33:39 Ron Baldwin, chief information officer, State Information Technology Services Division, Department of Administration

00:34:07 Sen. Malek entered the hearing.

00:35:35 Jessie Luther, Verizon Wireless
[EXHIBIT\(ens53a01\)](#)

00:37:24 Sen. Regier entered the hearing.

Informational Testimony:

00:39:19 Quinn Ness, bureau chief, Public Safety Communications Bureau, Department of Administration
00:39:46 Evan Hammer, Montana State Library

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:40:21 Sen. Wolken
00:40:47 Rep. Garner
00:41:40 Chair Ankney
00:43:05 Rep. Garner

00:43:14 Sen. Regier
00:43:35 Rep. Garner
00:43:54 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division
00:44:30 Sen. Connell
00:45:31 Mr. Feiss, MTA
00:46:03 Sen. Barrett
00:46:38 Rep. Garner
00:48:34 Sen. Barrett
00:49:07 Mr. Smith, MTLA
00:51:46 Sen. Kary
00:52:16 Mr. Smith

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:35 Rep. Garner
00:55:08 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON HB 297

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:55:23 Rep. Adam Hertz (R), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 297, Provide right-of-first-refusal for certain transmission lines.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:59:00 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)
01:01:45 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:02:40 Sen. Malek
01:03:09 Rep. Hertz
01:03:35 Mr. Hardy, MECA
01:04:20 Sen. Malek
01:04:33 Mr. Hardy

Closing by Sponsor:

01:04:58 Rep. Hertz
01:05:25 Chair Ankney

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 297

01:07:39 Chair Ankney

01:07:49 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **HB 297 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Wolken will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 61

01:08:55 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **HB 61 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

01:09:15 Sen. Blasdel

01:09:25 Chair Ankney

01:09:31 Without objection Sen. Connell withdrew the BE CONCURRED IN Motion.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 20

01:09:40 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **HB 20 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Connell will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 22

01:10:31 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **HB 22 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

01:10:50 Chair Ankney

01:11:26 Sen. Regier

01:11:30 Chair Ankney

01:11:34 Sen. McNally

01:11:42 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 299

01:12:08 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 299 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

01:12:20 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division

01:12:34 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Connell made a substitute motion that **HR 299 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. (Amendment SB029901.ASN previously passed by committee on 2/23/2017.)

EXHIBIT(ens53a02)

Discussion:

01:12:49 Sen. Richmond

01:13:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Malek, Sen. McNally and Sen. Wolken voting no.

01:14:42 Chair Ankney

01:15:27 Sen. Connell

01:16:50 Chair Ankney

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:20 PM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

Additional Documents

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens53aad.pdf](#))